

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 and 22 were rejected and claims 21 and 23 were objected to. By the present Response, claims 1, 10, 17 and 22 have been amended and claims 21 and 23 have been cancelled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-20 and 22 will be pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kirchner et al. However the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 21 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features recited in claims 21 and 23 indicated as allowable by the examiner. Also, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate nomenclature found in the recited relationship, which can be found in paragraphs 26 and 28 of the specification. Claim 1 and claims depending therefrom are therefore believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been similarly amended. Also, as noted with respect to claim 1, claim 10 includes recitation of nomenclature found in the recited relationship, which can be found in paragraphs 26 and 28 of the specification. Claim 10 and claims depending therefrom are therefore believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of claim 21, indicated as allowable. Although claim 17 does not incorporate subject matter of the intermediate claims, it is believed that it is the subject matter of claim 21 that sufficiently distinguished the invention from the prior art. Accordingly, claim 21 has been cancelled. Claim 17 and claims depending therefrom are therefore believed to be in a condition for allowance.

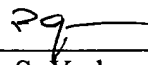
The Examiner had indicated that the subject matter of claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 23 and also nomenclature found in the recited relationship as noted with respect to the earlier claims. Accordingly, claim 23 has been cancelled. Claim 22 is therefore believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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